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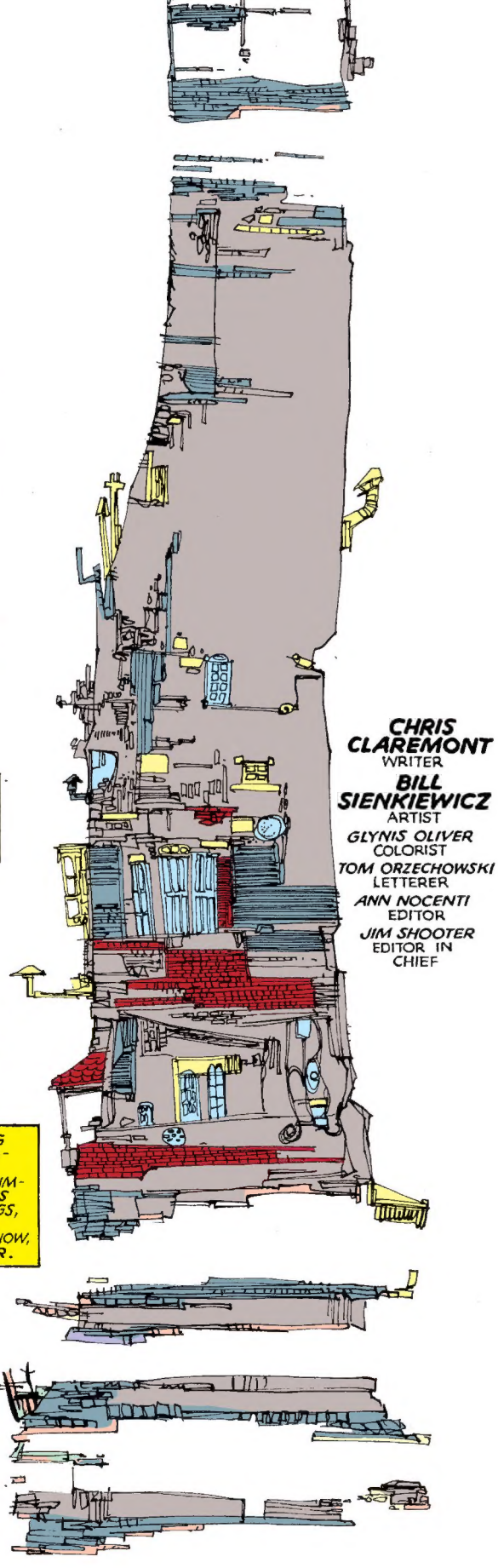
CHARLES XAVIER
AND HIS
NEW MUTANTS



CHRIS CLAREMONT
WRITER

BILL SIENKIEWICZ
ARTIST

GLYNIS OLIVER
COLORIST

TOM ORZECHOWSKI
LETTERER

ANN NOCENTI
EDITOR

JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

THERE IS A PLACE, KNOWN TO US ALL, WHERE ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE, AND THE ONLY BOUNDARIES ARE THOSE OF IMAGINATION -- IT IS AS MUCH REALITY AS FANTASY, THE SOURCE OF WONDROUS DREAMS AND MOST HIDEOUS NIGHTMARES. IT DEFINES HOW WE VIEW THE WORLD AND WHAT WE DO WITH IT.

IT IS THE ESSENCE OF WHAT WE ARE AND WERE AND WILL EVER BE.

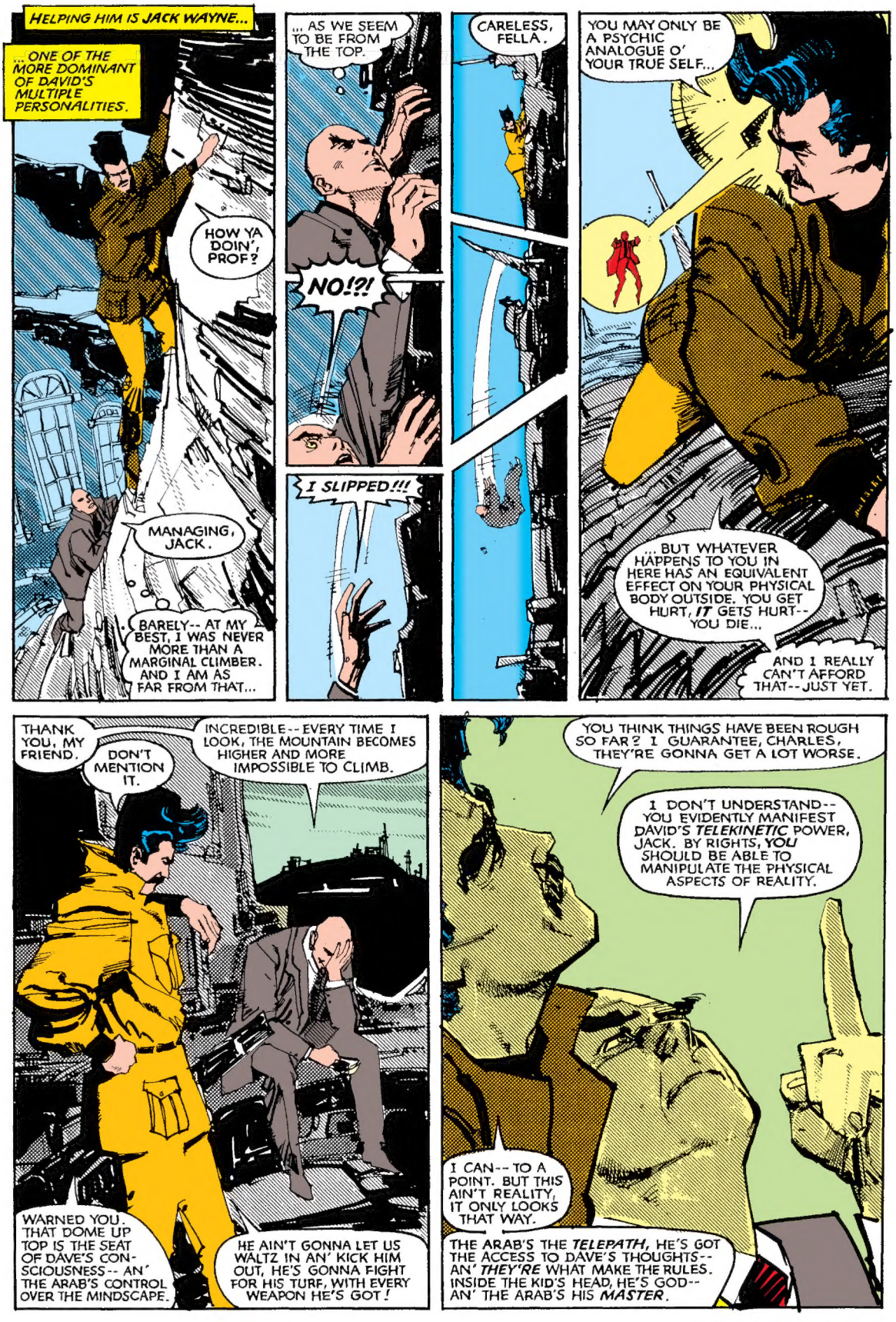
IT IS THE BRAIN.

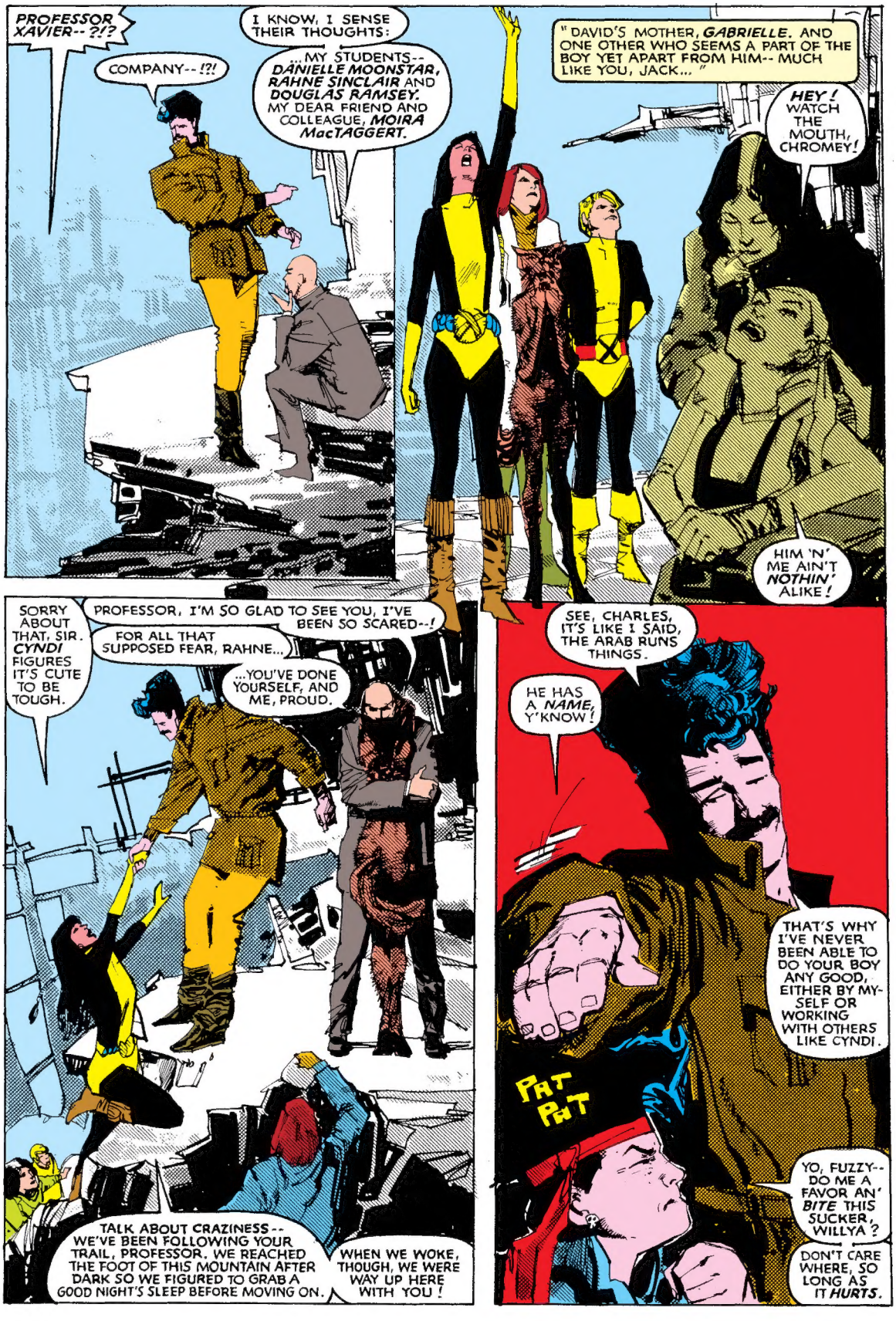
THIS ONE BELONGS TO A YOUNG MAN NAMED DAVID CHARLES HALLER AND IT IS A REALM WHERE MADNESS REIGNS.

SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE TWISTED, WAR-TORN MINDSCAPE THAT IS A CRAZY-QUILT HODGEPODGE BLEND OF PARIS AND BEIRUT ARE DAVID'S MOTHER, HIS DOCTOR AND THREE NEW MUTANTS.

NEAR ITS HEART, STRUGGLING WITH DESPERATE DETERMINATION TO REACH IT AND, IF POSSIBLE, SAVE HIM FROM HIMSELF, IS PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER -- WHO IS MANY THINGS, INCLUDING THE MUTANTS' TEACHER AND MENTOR. BUT NOW, MOST OF ALL, DAVID'S FATHER.

THE NEW MUTANTS™ Vol. 1, No. 28, June, 1985. Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Vice-President, Publishing. Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published monthly. Copyright © 1985 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price 65¢ per copy in the U.S. and 75¢ in Canada. Subscription rate $7.80 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, $9.80. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. THE NEW MUTANTS (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO NEW MUTANTS, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 10TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.** Application to mail at second-class postage rates is pending at New York, N.Y. and at additional mailing office.


HELPING HIM IS JACK WAYNE...
...ONE OF THE MORE DOMINANT OF DAVID'S MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES.
HOW YA DOIN', PROF?
MANAGING, JACK.
BARELY-- AT MY BEST, I WAS NEVER MORE THAN A MARGINAL CLIMBER. AND I AM AS FAR FROM THAT...
... AS WE SEEM TO BE FROM THE TOP.
NO!?!
I SLIPPED!!!
CARELESS, FELLA.
YOU MAY ONLY BE A PSYCHIC ANALOGUE O' YOUR TRUE SELF...
... BUT WHATEVER HAPPENS TO YOU IN HERE HAS AN EQUIVALENT EFFECT ON YOUR PHYSICAL BODY OUTSIDE. YOU GET HURT, IT GETS HURT-- YOU DIE...
AND I REALLY CAN'T AFFORD THAT-- JUST YET.
THANK YOU, MY FRIEND.
DON'T MENTION IT.
INCREDIBLE-- EVERY TIME I LOOK, THE MOUNTAIN BECOMES HIGHER AND MORE IMPOSSIBLE TO CLIMB.
WARNED YOU. THAT DOME UP TOP IS THE SEAT OF DAVE'S CONSCIOUSNESS-- AN' THE ARAB'S CONTROL OVER THE MINDSCAPE.
HE AIN'T GONNA LET US WALTZ IN AN' KICK HIM OUT, HE'S GONNA FIGHT FOR HIS TURF, WITH EVERY WEAPON HE'S GOT!
YOU THINK THINGS HAVE BEEN ROUGH SO FAR? I GUARANTEE, CHARLES, THEY'RE GONNA GET A LOT WORSE.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND-- YOU EVIDENTLY MANIFEST DAVID'S TELEKINETIC POWER, JACK. BY RIGHTS, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO MANIPULATE THE PHYSICAL ASPECTS OF REALITY.
I CAN-- TO A POINT. BUT THIS AIN'T REALITY, IT ONLY LOOKS THAT WAY.
THE ARAB'S THE TELEPATH, HE'S GOT THE ACCESS TO DAVE'S THOUGHTS-- AN' THEY'RE WHAT MAKE THE RULES. INSIDE THE KID'S HEAD, HE'S GOD-- AN' THE ARAB'S HIS MASTER.


PROFESSOR XAVIER--?!?
I KNOW, I SENSE THEIR THOUGHTS:
COMPANY--!?!
...MY STUDENTS--DANIELLE MOONSTAR, RAHNE SINCLAIR AND DOUGLAS RAMSEY. MY DEAR FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE, MOIRA MacTAGGERT.
"DAVID'S MOTHER, GABRIELLE. AND ONE OTHER WHO SEEMS A PART OF THE BOY YET APART FROM HIM-- MUCH LIKE YOU, JACK... "
HEY! WATCH THE MOUTH, CHROMEY!
HIM 'N' ME AIN'T NOTHIN' ALIKE!
SORRY ABOUT THAT, SIR. CYNDI FIGURES IT'S CUTE TO BE TOUGH.
PROFESSOR, I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU, I'VE BEEN SO SCARED--!
FOR ALL THAT SUPPOSED FEAR, RAHNE...
...YOU'VE DONE YOURSELF, AND ME, PROUD.
TALK ABOUT CRAZINESS-- WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOUR TRAIL, PROFESSOR. WE REACHED THE FOOT OF THIS MOUNTAIN AFTER DARK SO WE FIGURED TO GRAB A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP BEFORE MOVING ON.
WHEN WE WOKE, THOUGH, WE WERE WAY UP HERE WITH YOU!
SEE, CHARLES, IT'S LIKE I SAID, THE ARAB RUNS THINGS.
HE HAS A NAME, Y'KNOW!
THAT'S WHY I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO DO YOUR BOY ANY GOOD, EITHER BY MYSELF OR WORKING WITH OTHERS LIKE CYNDI.
PAT PAT
YO, FUZZY-- DO ME A FAVOR AN' BITE THIS SUCKER, WILLYA?
DON'T CARE WHERE, SO LONG AS IT HURTS.

THERE'S NOWHERE TO HIDE ON THIS LEDGE--
--WE'RE CLAY PIGEONS!
MUMMY--AIRCRAFT!
NO PROBLEM.
IF A THING EXISTS--
--I CAN MAKE IT BURN.
AS FIERY WRECKAGE CASCADES THROUGH THE SKY, JACK GATHERS IT UP...
...AND HURLS IT TOWARDS THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN...
...HOPING TO FRY OR BURY HIS BITTER FOE.
HE DOESN'T EVEN COME CLOSE.
AVALANCHE!
SMART MOVE, Mr. WAYNE.
DON'T FRET, HIAWATHA--NOTHING CAN PUNCH THROUGH MY TK SHIELDS.
"HIA--?!!" GIMME A BREAK!
RELAX, DOUG. BATTLES LIKE THIS, I FIGHT MYSELF.
THE CREEP! HE REMINDS ME OF THE HEROES IN OLD-TIME WESTERNS--THE ONES THAT WENT AROUND CHEERFULLY MASSACRING EVERY INDIAN IN SIGHT.
I SUPPOSE I SHOULDN'T BE SO HARSH, HE'S THE PROF'S PAL.
NO ACCOUNTING FOR TASTE.

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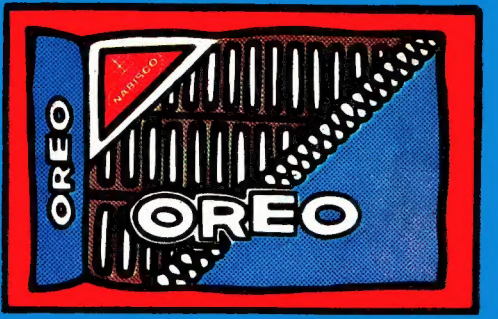
2. _ _ _ _ IT!
3. _ _ _ _ _ IT!
4. _ _ _ _ _ _ _ IT!
5. _ _ _ _ IT!
6. _ _ _ IT!

1. UNSCREW
2. LICK
3. MUNCH
4. CRUNCH
5. DUNK
6. EAT



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JACK!
I APPRECIATE ALL YOU'VE DONE BUT YOU CAN NO LONGER THINK AND ACT SOLELY FOR YOURSELF. WE ARE A TEAM, WE MUST POOL OUR RESOURCES, PULL TOGETHER, OR WE'RE QUITE PROBABLY DOOMED!
THE SAME APPLIES TO YOU, CYNDI!
CAN'T SPEAK FOR THE DARLIN' LITTLE BRAT, CHARLES...
...BUT I GET THE MESSAGE.
YUCK!
THESE LAMOS ARE TURNIN' INTO NO FUN AT ALL!
'CEPT MAYBE FOR BLONDIE --HE'S GOT POTENTIAL.
WOLFIE, TOO, IF YOU'RE INTO FLEAS.
I DON'T HAVE--!!!
I DINNA KNOW HOW TO DESCRIBE, TO PUT INTO WORDS WHAT I SEE...
IN THIS WOLFEN FORM, MY SENSES ARE WONDERFULLY KEEN, FAR MORE THAN ANY PERSON'S.
I KNOW, RAHNE.
ABOUT Mr. WAYNE I PERCEIVE AN AURA-- A SCENT-- I CANNA LIKE NOR TRUST.
MUMMY, ARE THE PROFESSOR AND Mr. WAYNE FRIENDS?
CERTAINLY APPEARS THAT WAY, POPPET--WHY?
SHE'S SO YOUNG, AND STILL RELATIVELY UNVERSED IN THE USE OF HER POWERS-- COULD SHE HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD WHAT SHE SAW?
CHARLES' IS A TELE PATH, SURELY HE WOULDN'T PUT HIS FAITH IN SOMEONE WHO DIDN'T MERIT IT.
YET, RAHNE HAS NO REASON TO LIE, NOR I TO DISCOUNT HER STORY-- OH?!!
A WIND-- SWEEPING OUT OF NOWHERE!!!

"Etagramulfabetz"

(THE TASTE THAT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD.)

"Reese's Pieces" are the only words he knows in our language, but he's working on "great peanut butter taste."

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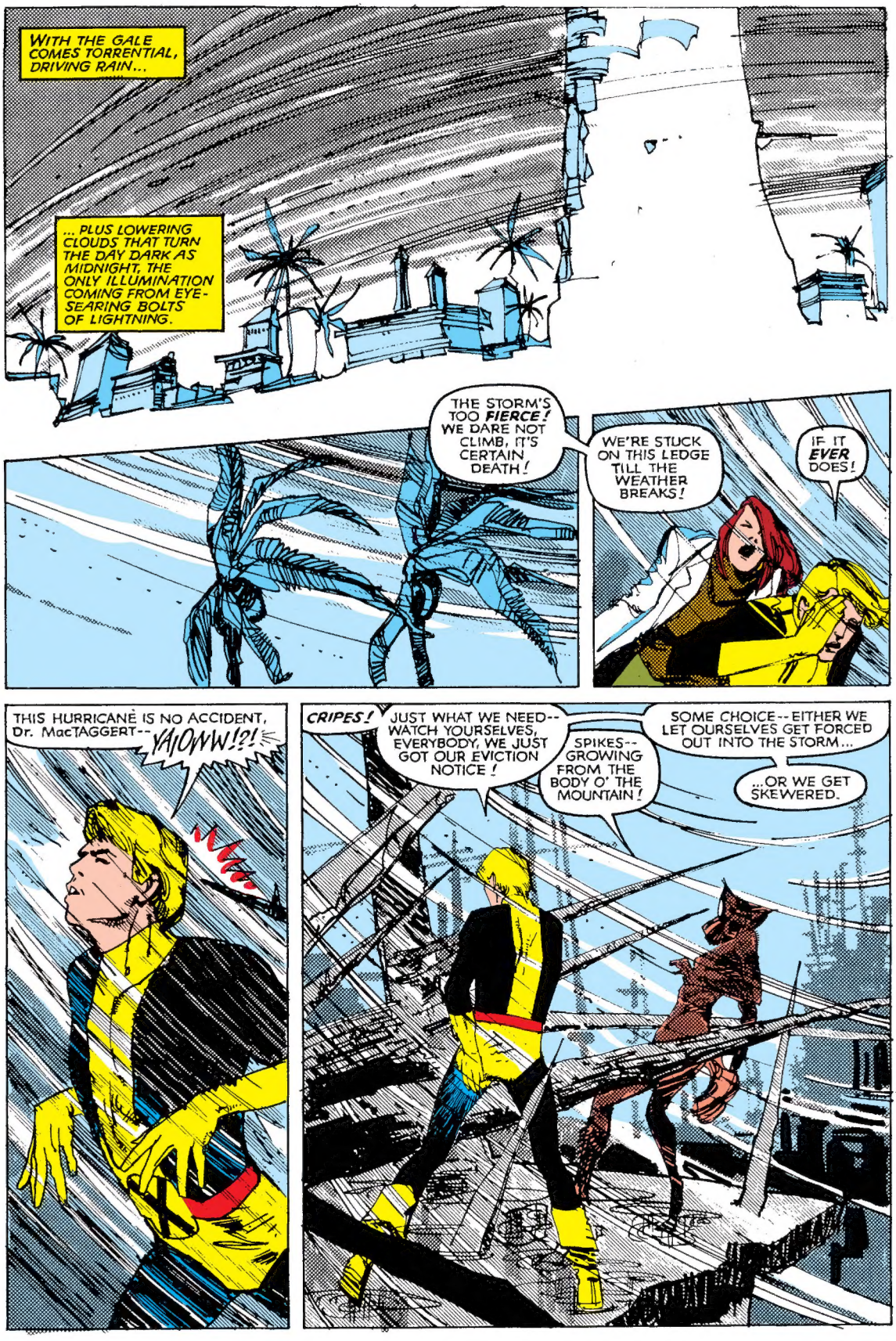
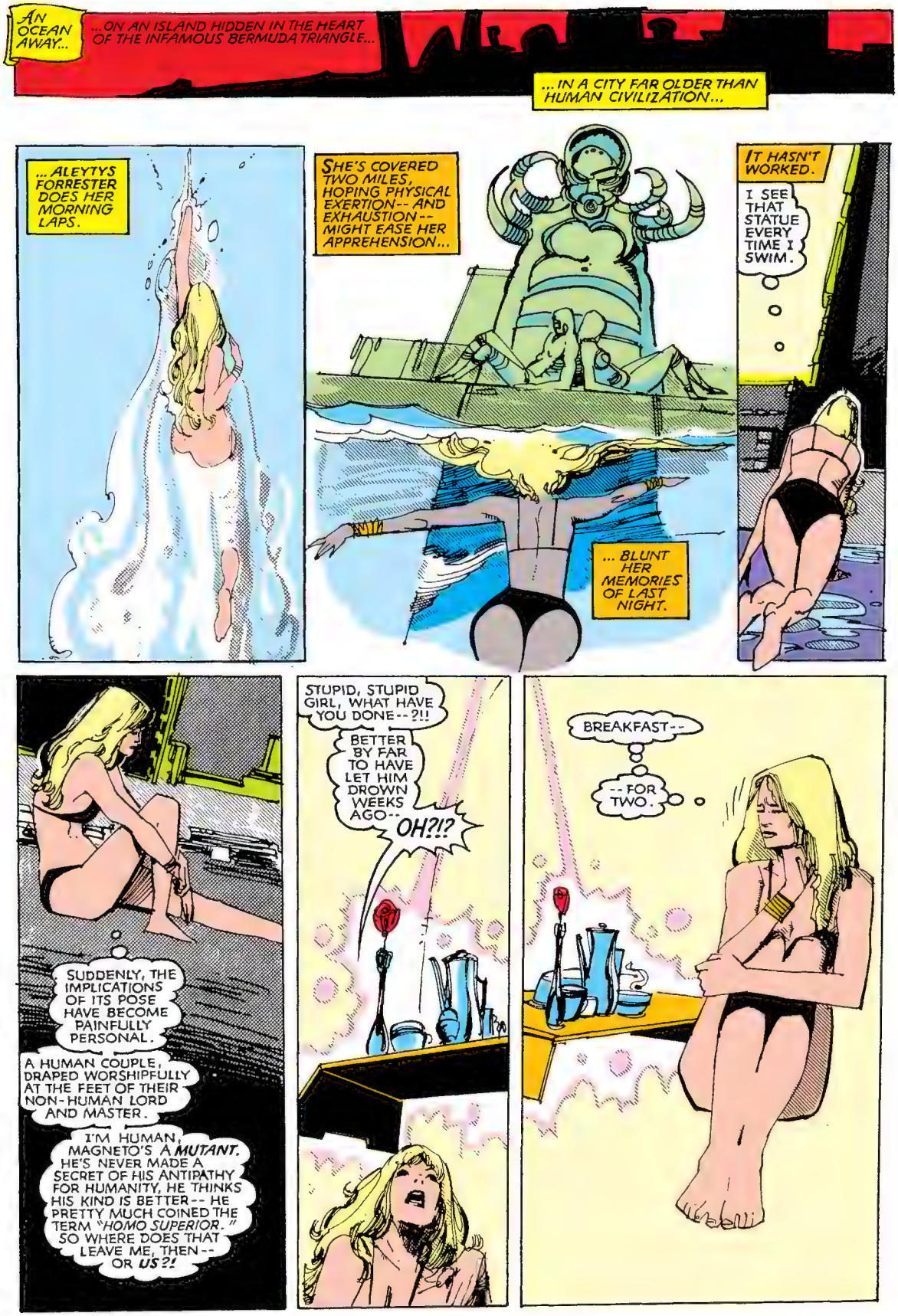

WITH THE GALE COMES TORRENTIAL, DRIVING RAIN...
...PLUS LOWERING CLOUDS THAT TURN THE DAY DARK AS MIDNIGHT, THE ONLY ILLUMINATION COMING FROM EYE-SEARING BOLTS OF LIGHTNING.
THE STORM'S TOO FIERCE! WE DARE NOT CLIMB, IT'S CERTAIN DEATH!
WE'RE STUCK ON THIS LEDGE TILL THE WEATHER BREAKS!
IF IT EVER DOES!
THIS HURRICANE IS NO ACCIDENT, Dr. MacTAGGERT--
YAIOWW!?!
CRIPES!
JUST WHAT WE NEED-- WATCH YOURSELVES, EVERYBODY, WE JUST GOT OUR EVICTION NOTICE!
SPIKES-- GROWING FROM THE BODY O' THE MOUNTAIN!
SOME CHOICE--EITHER WE LET OURSELVES GET FORCED OUT INTO THE STORM...
...OR WE GET SKEWERED.


AN OCEAN AWAY...
...ON AN ISLAND HIDDEN IN THE HEART OF THE INFAMOUS BERMUDA TRIANGLE...
...IN A CITY FAR OLDER THAN HUMAN CIVILIZATION...
...ALEYTYS FORRESTER DOES HER MORNING LAPS.
SHE'S COVERED TWO MILES, HOPING PHYSICAL EXERTION-- AND EXHAUSTION-- MIGHT EASE HER APPREHENSION...
...BLUNT HER MEMORIES OF LAST NIGHT.
IT HASN'T WORKED.
I SEE THAT STATUE EVERY TIME I SWIM.
SUDDENLY, THE IMPLICATIONS OF ITS POSE HAVE BECOME PAINFULLY PERSONAL.
A HUMAN COUPLE, DRAPED WORSHIPFULLY AT THE FEET OF THEIR NON-HUMAN LORD AND MASTER.
I'M HUMAN. MAGNETO'S A MUTANT. HE'S NEVER MADE A SECRET OF HIS ANTIPATHY FOR HUMANITY, HE THINKS HIS KIND IS BETTER-- HE PRETTY MUCH COINED THE TERM "HOMO SUPERIOR." SO WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE ME, THEN-- OR US?!
STUPID, STUPID GIRL, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE--?!!
BETTER BY FAR TO HAVE LET HIM DROWN WEEKS AGO--
OH?!?
BREAKFAST--
-- FOR TWO.

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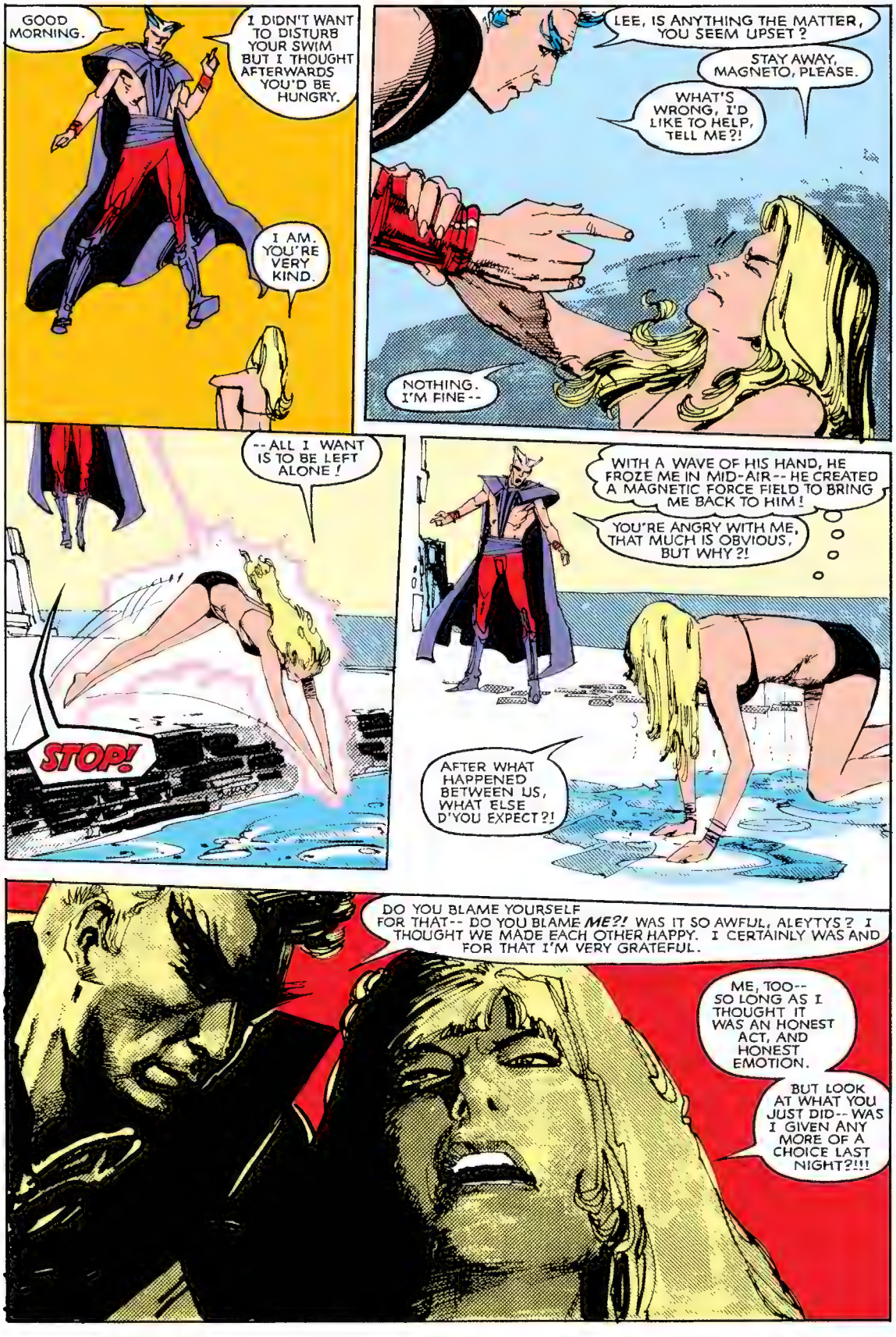
GOOD MORNING.
I DIDN'T WANT TO DISTURB YOUR SWIM BUT I THOUGHT AFTERWARDS YOU'D BE HUNGRY.
I AM. YOU'RE VERY KIND.
LEE, IS ANYTHING THE MATTER, YOU SEEM UPSET?
STAY AWAY, MAGNETO, PLEASE.
WHAT'S WRONG, I'D LIKE TO HELP, TELL ME?!
NOTHING. I'M FINE--
--ALL I WANT IS TO BE LEFT ALONE!
STOP!
WITH A WAVE OF HIS HAND, HE FROZE ME IN MID-AIR-- HE CREATED A MAGNETIC FORCE FIELD TO BRING ME BACK TO HIM!
YOU'RE ANGRY WITH ME, THAT MUCH IS OBVIOUS, BUT WHY?!
AFTER WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN US, WHAT ELSE D'YOU EXPECT?!
DO YOU BLAME YOURSELF FOR THAT-- DO YOU BLAME ME?! WAS IT SO AWFUL, ALEYTYS? I THOUGHT WE MADE EACH OTHER HAPPY. I CERTAINLY WAS AND FOR THAT I'M VERY GRATEFUL.
ME, TOO-- SO LONG AS I THOUGHT IT WAS AN HONEST ACT, AND HONEST EMOTION.
BUT LOOK AT WHAT YOU JUST DID-- WAS I GIVEN ANY MORE OF A CHOICE LAST NIGHT?!!!

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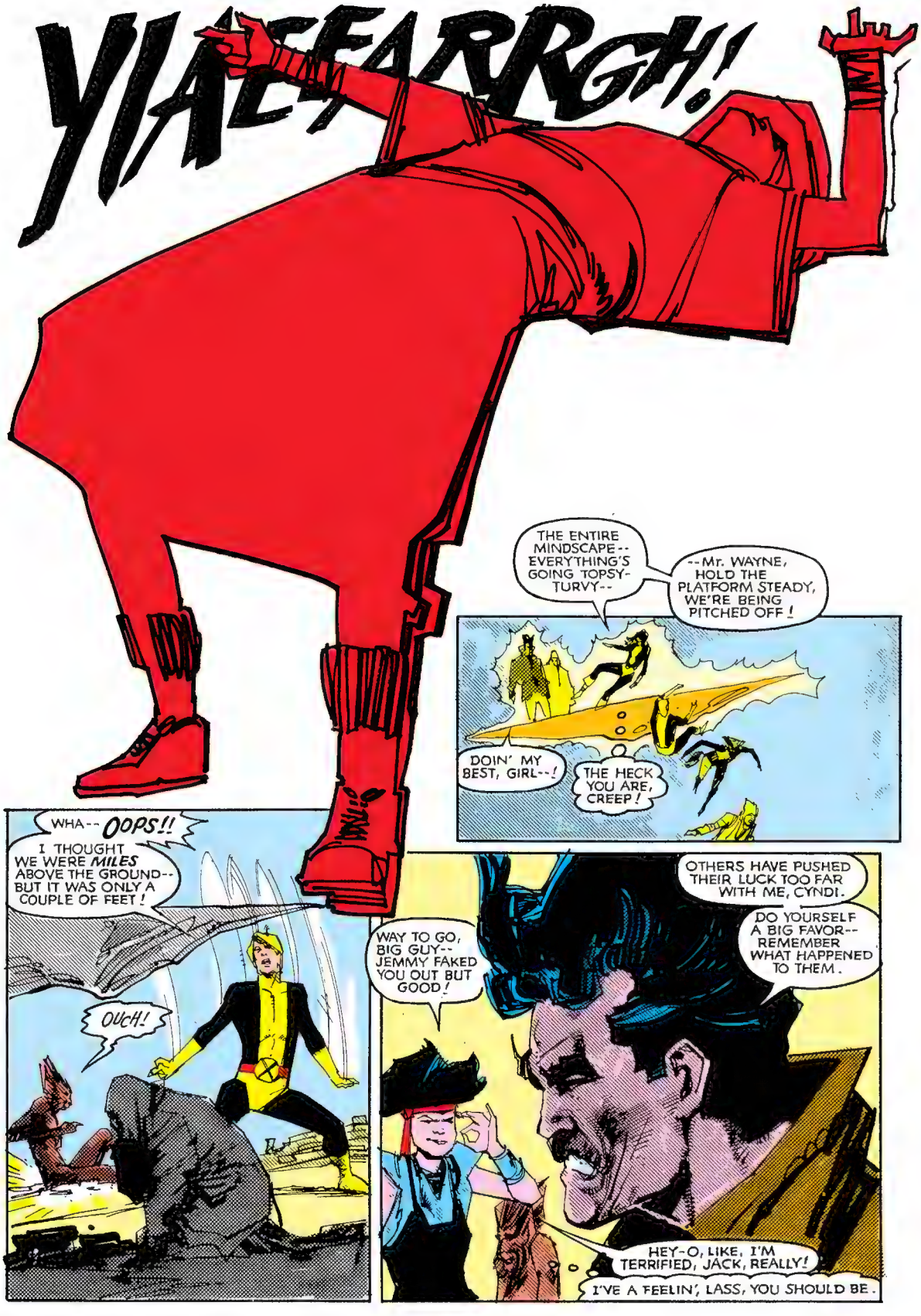
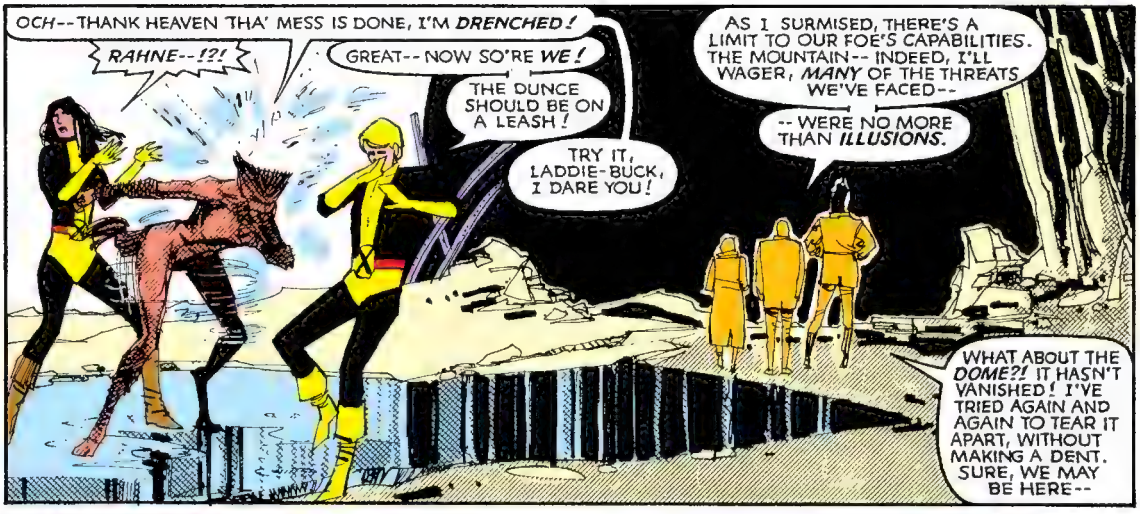
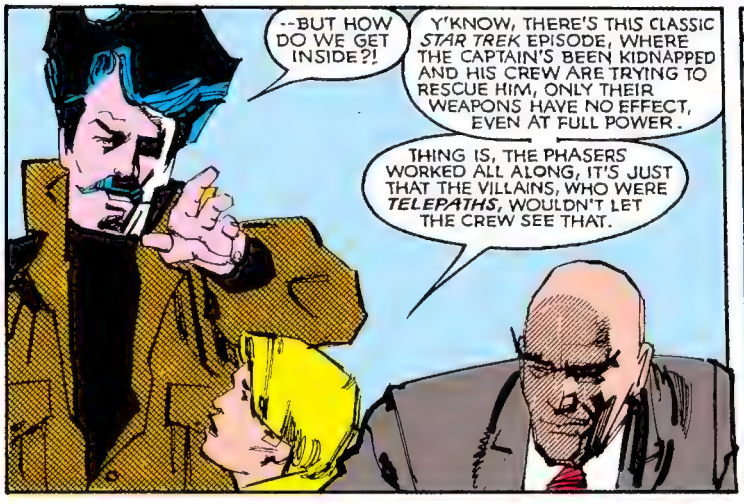
LEE, I WOULD NEVER USE MY POWERS TO COERCE, OR HARM, YOU.
I HAVE GIVEN MY WORD.
HOW CAN I BELIEVE THAT?!
YOU'RE MAGNETO! THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM, ONE OF THE MOST INFAMOUS SUPER-VILLAINS OF OUR AGE, THE AVOWED ENEMY OF HUMANKIND!
WELL, BUSTER-- I'M HUMAN!
YOU'RE AFRAID OF ME.
YES!
MY WIFE, MAGDA, HAD SUCH A LOOK ON HER FACE-- I HAD SAVED US BOTH FROM A MARAUDING PATROL OF SECRET POLICE, YET ALL SHE SAW WAS THAT I HAD USED SUPER-POWERS TO DO IT. IN THAT MOMENT, I BECAME DIFFERENT-- OUR LOVE MEANT NOTHING, I WAS NO LONGER HUMAN. I WAS A MUTANT, A THING.
SHE RAN FROM ME, IN TERROR.
I NEVER SAW HER AGAIN, NEVER KNEW-- UNTIL MUCH LATER, FAR TOO LATE-- THAT SHE HAD BORNE MY CHILDREN.
DON'T-- PLEASE, LEE, DON'T YOU RUN FROM ME, TOO.
I CANNOT BEAR TO BE ALONE AND I AM SICK AT HEART AT THE REALIZATION OF WHAT I HAVE BECOME. HELP ME, LEE, I... BEG YOU.
I NEED YOU.
BUT THE HAND OUTSTRETCHED REMAINS UNTAKEN...
... AND THIS TIME, IT IS MAGNETO WHO WALKS AWAY, HIS HEART ACHING AS IT HAS NOT FOR A LIFETIME, HIS SPIRIT SHATTERED AS IT HAD NEVER BEEN BY THE WORST DEFEAT.

MEANWHILE...
... IN DAVID HALLER'S BRAIN...
... THE SITUATION WORSENS BY THE SECOND.
IF ANYONE'S INTERESTED, WE'RE RUNNING OUTTA ROOM!
WE'RE AWARE OF THAT, DOUGLAS.
RAHNEY--?! YOU SOUND AWFUL!
I FEEL WORSE-- I HATE THIS WEATHER!
COFF
CHOO
STICK CLOSE, HUNK, I'LL KEEP YOU NICE'N' ROASTY-TOASTY WARM!
GREAT.
POOR DOUGLAS-- BUT I HOPE THE ATTRACTION CYNDI FEELS FOR HIM WILL PERSUADE HER TO AID US WHEN THE TIME COMES.
WE'RE OFF THE LEDGE, PROF, BUT I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO BUCK THIS STORM AN' FLY US TO THE MOUNTAINTOP-- I DOUBT I CAN EVEN KEEP US ALOFT MUCH LONGER.
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, JACK.
DANIELLE, YOUR POWER WILL SPEAR-HEAD OUR ATTACK.
AND YOU NEEDN'T WORRY UNDULY ABOUT RAHNE. HER WOLFEN INCARNATIONS ARE FAR MORE RESILIENT TO INJURIES AND DISEASE THAN OUR HUMAN BODIES-- SHE LOOKS FAR MORE WRETCHED THAN SHE ACTUALLY IS.
THANK YOU, SIR-- BUT, PROFESSOR, MY SPIRIT-FORMS HAD NO EFFECT ON ANY OF THE OTHER CRITTERS WE'VE FACED SO FAR, WHY SHOULD THINGS BE ANY DIFFERENT AGAINST THE ARAB?!
AH-AH CHOO
AH-AH CHOOOO

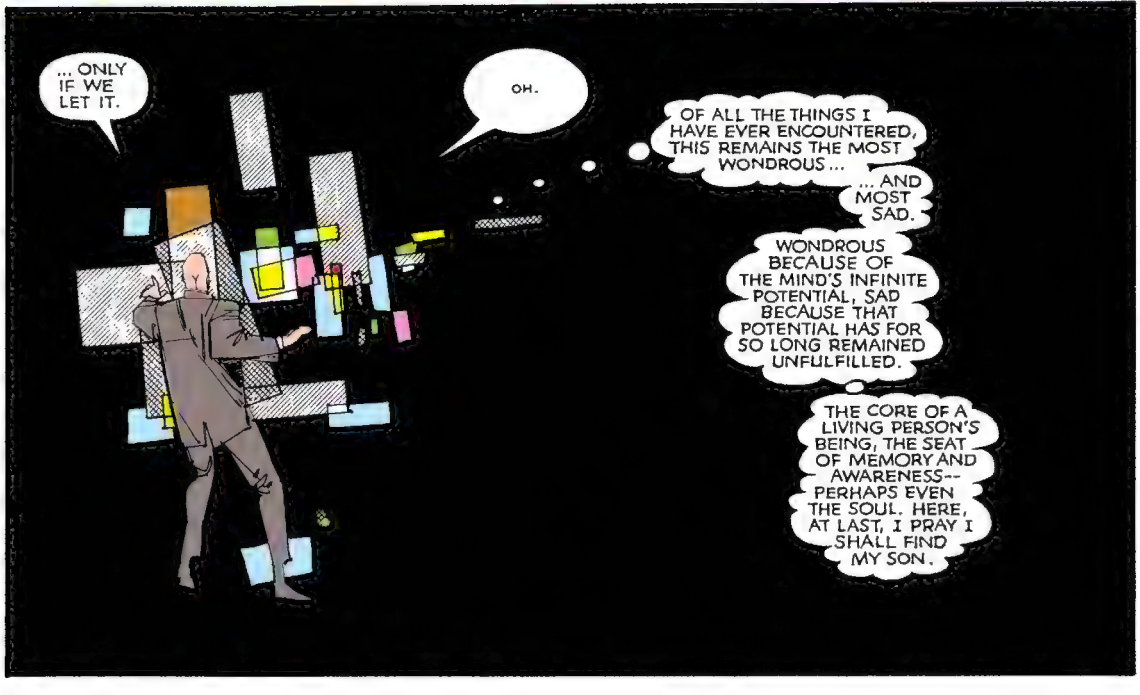
THOSE WERE MERELY EXTENSIONS OF THE CORE PSYCHE, WITH NO MORE SENTIENCE, DESPITE THEIR APPEARANCE, THAN A ROCK.
OUR FOE IS AS AWARE AND INTELLIGENT AS WE, AND THEREFORE AS VULNERABLE.
HE'S A TELEPATH, THOUGH, WON'T HE BE ABLE TO PROTECT HIMSELF?
THE LAD IS STRONG AND TALENTED, BUT ALL I'VE OBSERVED SINCE OUR ARRIVAL CONVINCES ME THAT HE IS ALSO COMPARATIVELY UNTUTORED IN THE USE OF HIS PSI-ABILITIES. EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN HIS SOLE TEACHER AND A SEVERELY LIMITED ONE AT THAT.
TRUE, HE HAS THE ADVANTAGE IN TERMS OF RAW POWER, BUT I POSSESS THE KNOWLEDGE. THAT SHOULD TIP THE BALANCE IN OUR FAVOR.
YOU HOPE.
I ALWAYS DO.
OPEN YOUR MIND TO ME, DANIELLE, LET MY ABILITIES AMPLIFY YOUR OWN.
WISH I WASN'T SCARED.
DEAR GIRL, YOU THINK I AM LESS SO?
FOCUS ON OUR TARGET.
HIS NAME IS JEMAIL KARAMI.
HE KNOWS THAT, SOONER OR LATER, THEY WILL COME AND TRY THEIR BEST TO DESTROY HIM.
COME WHAT MAY, HE IS DETERMINED TO SURVIVE.
BUT THEN--
< THE TEACHER -- AND HIS GIRL PUPIL! >
NOW, DANIELLE-- STRIKE, WITH ALL OUR COMBINED STRENGTH!

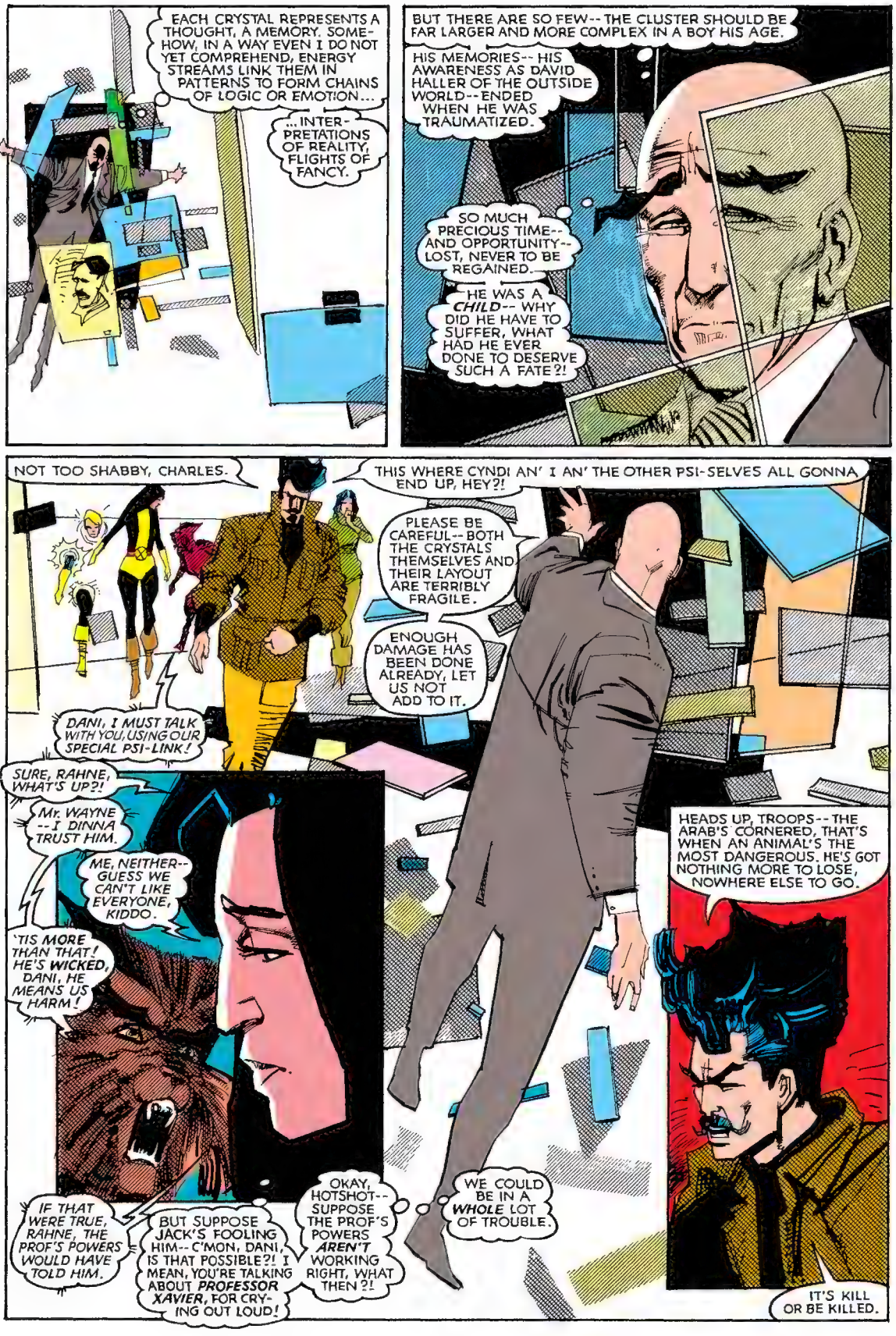

YIAEEARRGH!
THE ENTIRE MINDSCAPE--EVERYTHING'S GOING TOPSY-TURVY--
--Mr. WAYNE, HOLD THE PLATFORM STEADY, WE'RE BEING PITCHED OFF!
DOIN' MY BEST, GIRL--!
THE HECK YOU ARE, CREEP!
WHA--OOPS!!
I THOUGHT WE WERE MILES ABOVE THE GROUND--BUT IT WAS ONLY A COUPLE OF FEET!
OUCH!
WAY TO GO, BIG GUY--JEMMY FAKED YOU OUT BUT GOOD!
OTHERS HAVE PUSHED THEIR LUCK TOO FAR WITH ME, CYNDI.
DO YOURSELF A BIG FAVOR--REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM.
HEY-O, LIKE, I'M TERRIFIED, JACK, REALLY!
I'VE A FEELIN', LASS, YOU SHOULD BE.


OCH--THANK HEAVEN 'THA' MESS IS DONE, I'M *DRENCHED!*
RAHNE--!?!
GREAT--NOW SO'RE *WE!*
THE DUNCE SHOULD BE ON A LEASH!
TRY IT, LADDIE-BUCK, I DARE YOU!
AS I SURMISED, THERE'S A LIMIT TO OUR FOE'S CAPABILITIES. THE MOUNTAIN--INDEED, I'LL WAGER, *MANY* OF THE THREATS WE'VE FACED--
--WERE NO MORE THAN *ILLUSIONS.*
WHAT ABOUT THE *DOME?!* IT HASN'T VANISHED! I'VE TRIED AGAIN AND AGAIN TO TEAR IT APART, WITHOUT MAKING A DENT. SURE, WE MAY BE HERE--

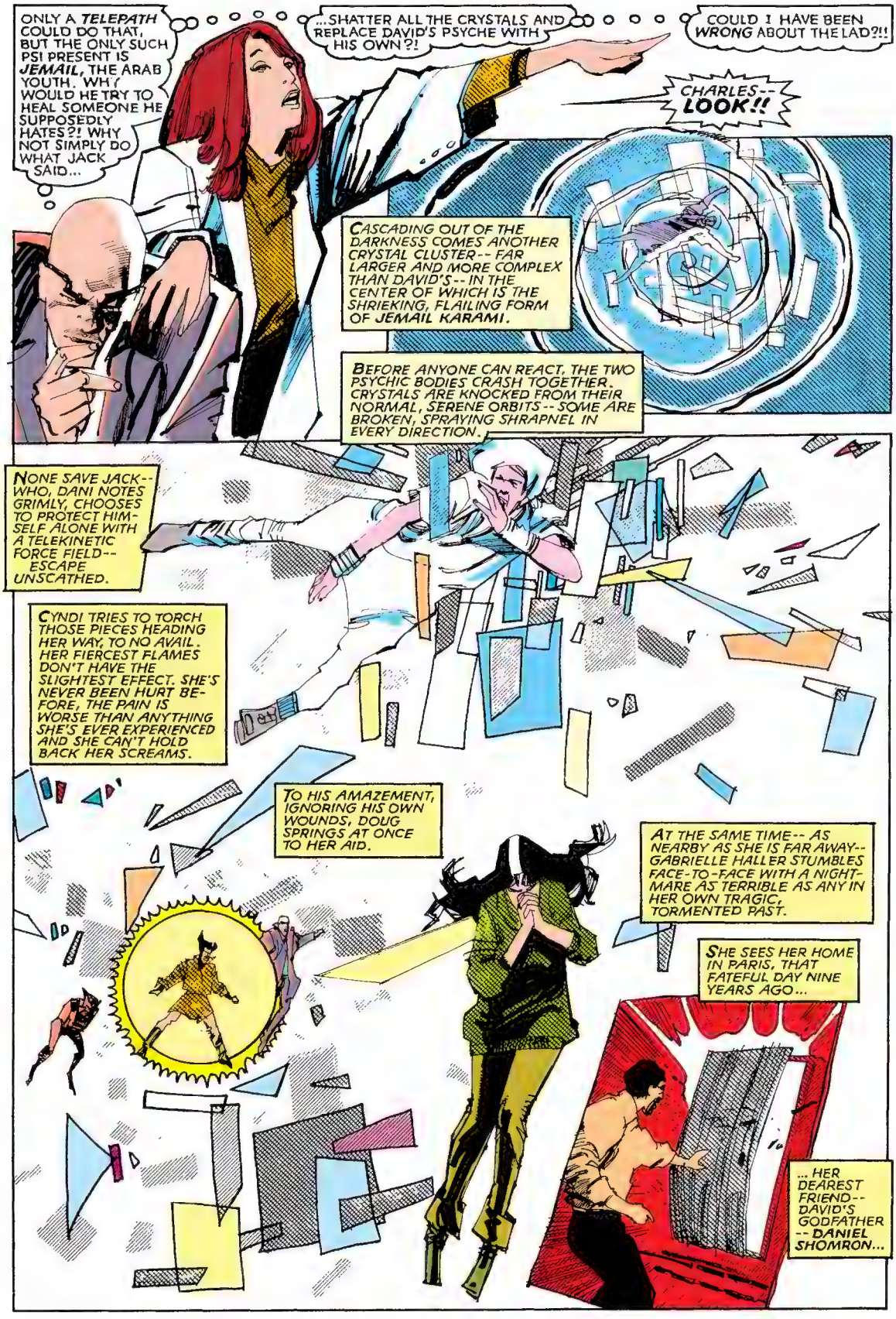

--BUT HOW DO WE GET INSIDE?!
Y'KNOW, THERE'S THIS CLASSIC *STAR TREK* EPISODE, WHERE THE CAPTAIN'S BEEN KIDNAPPED AND HIS CREW ARE TRYING TO RESCUE HIM, ONLY THEIR WEAPONS HAVE NO EFFECT, EVEN AT FULL POWER.
THING IS, THE PHASERS WORKED ALL ALONG, IT'S JUST THAT THE VILLAINS, WHO WERE *TELEPATHS,* WOULDN'T LET THE CREW SEE THAT.

MOST PERCEPTIVE, DOUGLAS.
WE, TOO, FACE A TELEPATH, JACK. AND HIS DOME REMAINS A BARRIER...


... ONLY IF WE LET IT.
OH.
OF ALL THE THINGS I HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED, THIS REMAINS THE MOST WONDROUS...
... AND MOST SAD.
WONDROUS BECAUSE OF THE MIND'S INFINITE POTENTIAL, SAD BECAUSE THAT POTENTIAL HAS FOR SO LONG REMAINED UNFULFILLED.
THE CORE OF A LIVING PERSON'S BEING, THE SEAT OF MEMORY AND AWARENESS--PERHAPS EVEN THE SOUL. HERE, AT LAST, I PRAY I SHALL FIND MY SON.


EACH CRYSTAL REPRESENTS A THOUGHT, A MEMORY. SOMEHOW, IN A WAY EVEN I DO NOT YET COMPREHEND, ENERGY STREAMS LINK THEM IN PATTERNS TO FORM CHAINS OF LOGIC OR EMOTION...
...INTERPRETATIONS OF REALITY, FLIGHTS OF FANCY.
BUT THERE ARE SO FEW-- THE CLUSTER SHOULD BE FAR LARGER AND MORE COMPLEX IN A BOY HIS AGE.
HIS MEMORIES-- HIS AWARENESS AS DAVID HALLER OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD--ENDED WHEN HE WAS TRAUMATIZED.
SO MUCH PRECIOUS TIME-- AND OPPORTUNITY-- LOST, NEVER TO BE REGAINED.
HE WAS A *CHILD*-- WHY DID HE HAVE TO SUFFER, WHAT HAD HE EVER DONE TO DESERVE SUCH A FATE?!
NOT TOO SHABBY, CHARLES.
THIS WHERE CYNDI AN' I AN' THE OTHER PSI-SELVES ALL GONNA END UP, HEY?!
PLEASE BE CAREFUL-- BOTH THE CRYSTALS THEMSELVES AND THEIR LAYOUT ARE TERRIBLY FRAGILE.
ENOUGH DAMAGE HAS BEEN DONE ALREADY, LET US NOT ADD TO IT.
DANI, I MUST TALK WITH YOU, USING OUR SPECIAL PSI-LINK!
SURE, RAHNE, WHAT'S UP?!
Mr. WAYNE --I DINNA TRUST HIM.
ME, NEITHER-- GUESS WE CAN'T LIKE EVERYONE, KIDDO.
*'TIS MORE THAN THAT! HE'S **WICKED**, DANI, HE MEANS US HARM!*
HEADS UP, TROOPS-- THE ARAB'S CORNERED, THAT'S WHEN AN ANIMAL'S THE MOST DANGEROUS. HE'S GOT NOTHING MORE TO LOSE, NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.
IT'S KILL OR BE KILLED.
WE COULD BE IN A *WHOLE* LOT OF TROUBLE.
OKAY, HOTSHOT-- SUPPOSE THE PROF'S POWERS *AREN'T* WORKING RIGHT, WHAT THEN?!
BUT SUPPOSE JACK'S FOOLING HIM-- C'MON, DANI, IS THAT POSSIBLE?! I MEAN, YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT *PROFESSOR XAVIER*, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!
IF THAT WERE TRUE, RAHNE, THE PROF'S POWERS WOULD HAVE TOLD HIM.

THAT IMAGE-- IT'S ME!
OH, CHARLES -- THE CRYSTAL RADIATES SUCH LOVE--!
"THE MIRACLE OF LIFE", XAVIER THINKS, WITH A MIX OF BITTER SADNESS, "BUT THE LOVE IS FOR YOU, GABRIELLE. DAVID'S MEMORIES ARE ALL OF YOU.
"WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME, WHY DID YOU KEEP HIM TO YOURSELF, DIDN'T I MATTER?! WHY COULDN'T YOU AT LEAST HAVE ALLOWED ME THE CHANCE, THE CHOICE, TO BE DAVID'S FATHER?! DID MY POWERS-- MY BEING A MUTANT-- HORRIFY YOU SO MUCH?!!"
I WONDER IF THE PROFESSOR COULD HELP ME WALK LIKE THIS THROUGH MY OWN HEAD, IT'D BE SO MARVELOUS TO VISIT MY MEMORIES OF MY GRANDFATHER. I MISS HIM SO MUCH, AND SOMETIMES, IT'S SO HARD TO REMEMBER.
BETTER GET MY MIND ON MY JOB OR THAT ARAB'LL SEE TO IT I END UP AS DEAD AS GRAN'PA. TROUBLE IS, THE MORE I WATCH JACK...
...THE MORE CONVINCED I BECOME THAT RAHNE'S RIGHT.
NO ONE'LL EVER BELIEVE THIS!
Ehnh--YOU SEEN ONE HEAD, YOU'VE SEEN 'EM ALL. DAVEYDOMEBOY'S NO BIG DEAL.
MINE'S A LOT MORE FUN.
GREAT.
WANNA PLAY THERE?
PROFESSOR!
THESE CRYSTALS ARE ALL BROKEN!
OWW!
THAT FLOATING SHARD SLICED RIGHT THROUGH MY UNIFORM!
BE CAREFUL, EVERYONE! THE LITTLE SUCKERS ARE SHARP!
THE ARAB'S DOING -- HE'S TRYING TO DESTROY THE BOY'S CONSCIOUSNESS, SO HE CAN TAKE OVER.
PERHAPS, JACK-- BUT I DOUBT IT, I THINK THIS WAS CAUSED BY THE INITIAL TRAUMA. WHAT'S STRANGE IS THAT MANY OF THESE CRYSTALS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN REPAIRED.


ONLY A TELEPATH COULD DO THAT, BUT THE ONLY SUCH PSI PRESENT IS JEMAIL, THE ARAB YOUTH. WHY WOULD HE TRY TO HEAL SOMEONE HE SUPPOSEDLY HATES?! WHY NOT SIMPLY DO WHAT JACK SAID...
... SHATTER ALL THE CRYSTALS AND REPLACE DAVID'S PSYCHE WITH HIS OWN?!
COULD I HAVE BEEN WRONG ABOUT THE LAD?!!
CHARLES-- LOOK!!
CASCADING OUT OF THE DARKNESS COMES ANOTHER CRYSTAL CLUSTER-- FAR LARGER AND MORE COMPLEX THAN DAVID'S-- IN THE CENTER OF WHICH IS THE SHRIEKING, FLAILING FORM OF JEMAIL KARAMI.
BEFORE ANYONE CAN REACT, THE TWO PSYCHIC BODIES CRASH TOGETHER. CRYSTALS ARE KNOCKED FROM THEIR NORMAL, SERENE ORBITS-- SOME ARE BROKEN, SPRAYING SHRAPNEL IN EVERY DIRECTION.
NONE SAVE JACK-- WHO, DANI NOTES GRIMLY, CHOOSES TO PROTECT HIMSELF ALONE WITH A TELEKINETIC FORCE FIELD-- ESCAPE UNSCATHED.
CYNDI TRIES TO TORCH THOSE PIECES HEADING HER WAY, TO NO AVAIL. HER FIERCEST FLAMES DON'T HAVE THE SLIGHTEST EFFECT. SHE'S NEVER BEEN HURT BEFORE, THE PAIN IS WORSE THAN ANYTHING SHE'S EVER EXPERIENCED AND SHE CAN'T HOLD BACK HER SCREAMS.
TO HIS AMAZEMENT, IGNORING HIS OWN WOUNDS, DOUG SPRINGS AT ONCE TO HER AID.
AT THE SAME TIME-- AS NEARBY AS SHE IS FAR AWAY-- GABRIELLE HALLER STUMBLES FACE-TO-FACE WITH A NIGHTMARE AS TERRIBLE AS ANY IN HER OWN TRAGIC, TORMENTED PAST.
SHE SEES HER HOME IN PARIS, THAT FATEFUL DAY NINE YEARS AGO...
... HER DEAREST FRIEND-- DAVID'S GODFATHER -- DANIEL SHOMRON...

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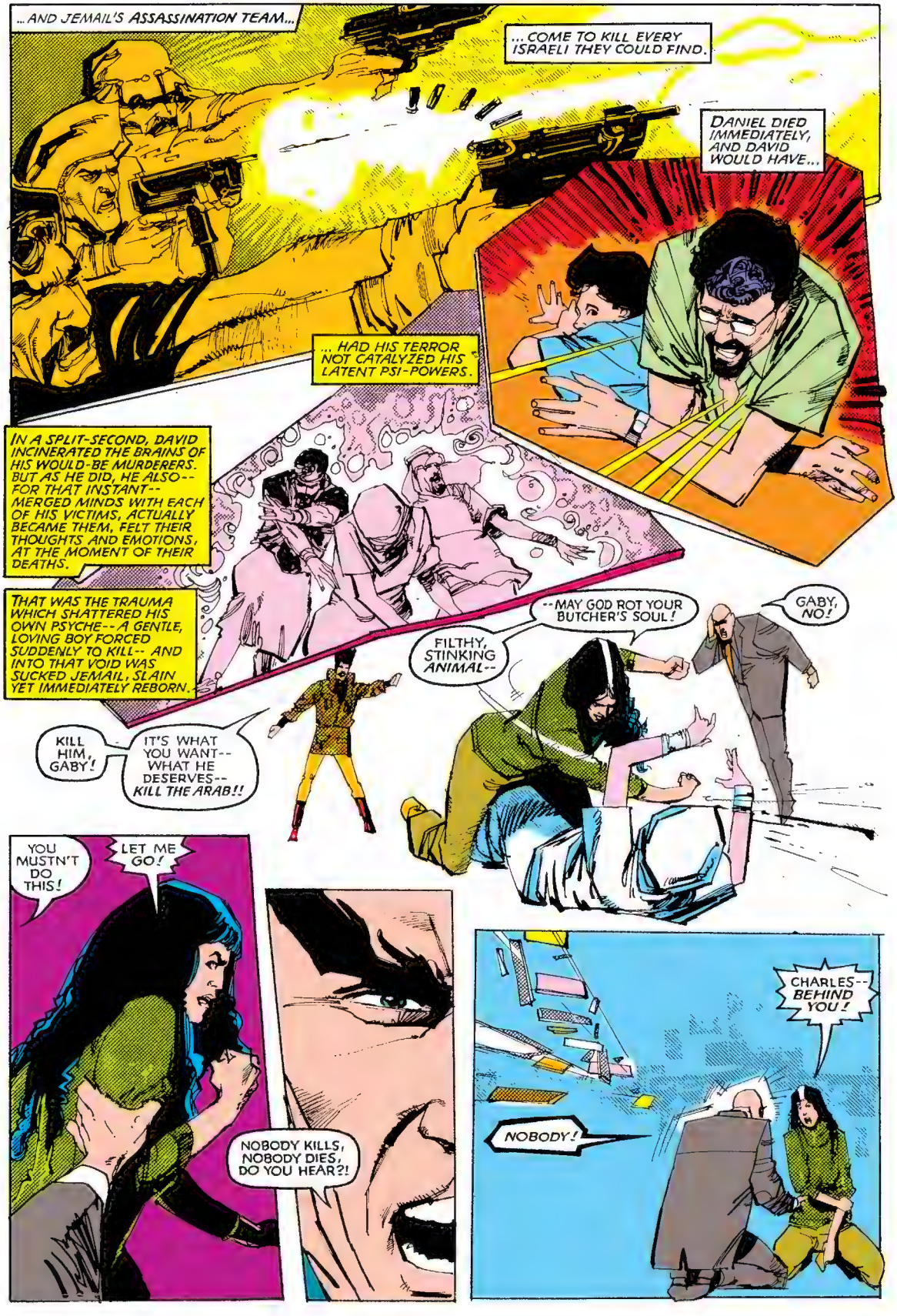
...AND JEMAIL'S ASSASSINATION TEAM...
...COME TO KILL EVERY ISRAELI THEY COULD FIND.
DANIEL DIED IMMEDIATELY, AND DAVID WOULD HAVE...
...HAD HIS TERROR NOT CATALYZED HIS LATENT PSI-POWERS.
IN A SPLIT-SECOND, DAVID INCINERATED THE BRAINS OF HIS WOULD-BE MURDERERS. BUT AS HE DID, HE ALSO--FOR THAT INSTANT--MERGED MINDS WITH EACH OF HIS VICTIMS, ACTUALLY BECAME THEM, FELT THEIR THOUGHTS AND EMOTIONS, AT THE MOMENT OF THEIR DEATHS.
THAT WAS THE TRAUMA WHICH SHATTERED HIS OWN PSYCHE--A GENTLE, LOVING BOY FORCED SUDDENLY TO KILL-- AND INTO THAT VOID WAS SUCKED JEMAIL, SLAIN YET IMMEDIATELY REBORN.
--MAY GOD ROT YOUR BUTCHER'S SOUL!
GABY, NO!
FILTHY, STINKING ANIMAL--
KILL HIM, GABY!
IT'S WHAT YOU WANT--WHAT HE DESERVES--KILL THE ARAB!!
YOU MUSTN'T DO THIS!
LET ME GO!
NOBODY KILLS, NOBODY DIES, DO YOU HEAR?!
CHARLES--BEHIND YOU!
NOBODY!

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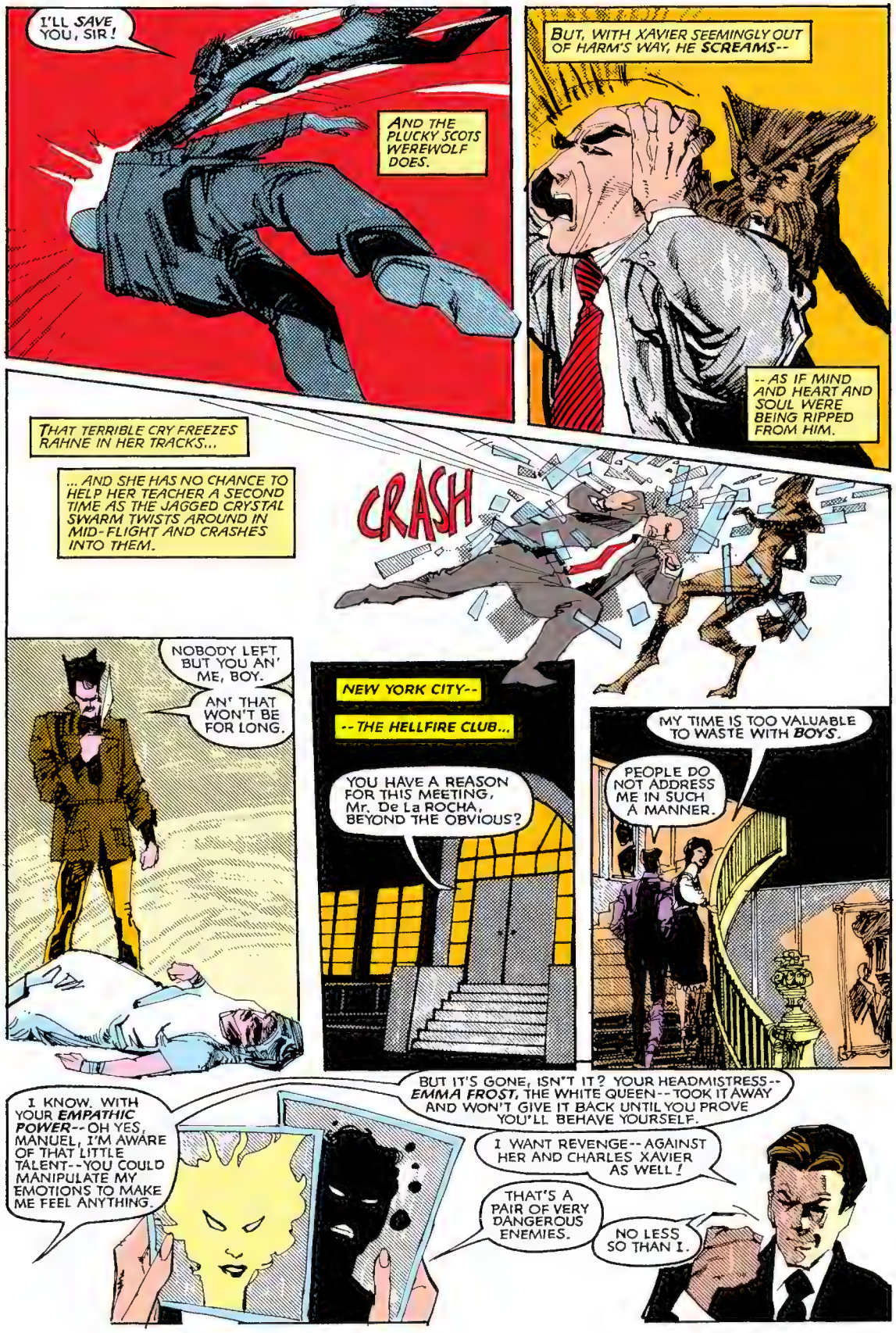
I'LL SAVE YOU, SIR!
AND THE PLUCKY SCOTS WEREWOLF DOES.
BUT, WITH XAVIER SEEMINGLY OUT OF HARM'S WAY, HE SCREAMS--
--AS IF MIND AND HEART AND SOUL WERE BEING RIPPED FROM HIM.
THAT TERRIBLE CRY FREEZES RAHNE IN HER TRACKS...
...AND SHE HAS NO CHANCE TO HELP HER TEACHER A SECOND TIME AS THE JAGGED CRYSTAL SWARM TWISTS AROUND IN MID-FLIGHT AND CRASHES INTO THEM.
CRASH
NOBODY LEFT BUT YOU AN' ME, BOY.
AN' THAT WON'T BE FOR LONG.
NEW YORK CITY--
--THE HELLFIRE CLUB...
YOU HAVE A REASON FOR THIS MEETING, Mr. De La ROCHA, BEYOND THE OBVIOUS?
MY TIME IS TOO VALUABLE TO WASTE WITH BOYS.
PEOPLE DO NOT ADDRESS ME IN SUCH A MANNER.
I KNOW. WITH YOUR EMPATHIC POWER--OH YES, MANUEL, I'M AWARE OF THAT LITTLE TALENT--YOU COULD MANIPULATE MY EMOTIONS TO MAKE ME FEEL ANYTHING.
BUT IT'S GONE, ISN'T IT? YOUR HEADMISTRESS--EMMA FROST, THE WHITE QUEEN--TOOK IT AWAY AND WON'T GIVE IT BACK UNTIL YOU PROVE YOU'LL BEHAVE YOURSELF.
I WANT REVENGE--AGAINST HER AND CHARLES XAVIER AS WELL!
THAT'S A PAIR OF VERY DANGEROUS ENEMIES.
NO LESS SO THAN I.

THESE PHOTOGRAPHS AND DOSSIERS ARE OF TWO OF XAVIER'S NEW MUTANTS--*MAGMA* AND *SUNSPOT*--YOU REPRESENT THE *GLADIATORS*. I OFFER THEM TO YOU AS POTENTIAL COMBATANTS.
MOST INTRIGUING. I'LL PASS ALONG YOUR PROPOSITION TO MY EMPLOYER. IF HE ACCEPTS, YOU'LL BE SUITABLY REWARDED.
I ONLY WISH I COULD BE THERE TO SEE THEM SLAUGHTER EACH OTHER IN YOUR ARENA.
"MY DEAR MANUEL, THAT'S VERY EASILY ARRANGED--AND SOONER THAN YOU THINK."
MEANWHILE, BACK IN DAVID'S BRAIN...
THAT WAYNE GUY--HE'S TRYING TO KNIFE THE ARAB!
LEAVE HIM ALONE!
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, PUNK!
WHOULNF!
SHOWING YOUR TRUE COLORS, Mr. WAYNE?
I'M TRYING, HIAWATHA, TO SAVE YOUR COLLECTIVE BUTTS--
--IF YOU'LL LET ME!
SURPRISE, WHITE EYES--I THINK YOU'RE *LYING!*
SHE HAS NO IDEA WHAT SHE'LL FIND WHEN SHE MANIFESTS A HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE OF JACK'S DEEPEST, MOST PRIMAL FEAR--IT TURNS OUT TO BE XAVIER, THE LOVING FATHER, AND A BOY WHO CAN ONLY BE THE DAVID THAT ONCE WAS.
THE MEREST SIGHT OF THEM SENDS JACK CRINGING AND CRYING INTO THE SHADOWS.

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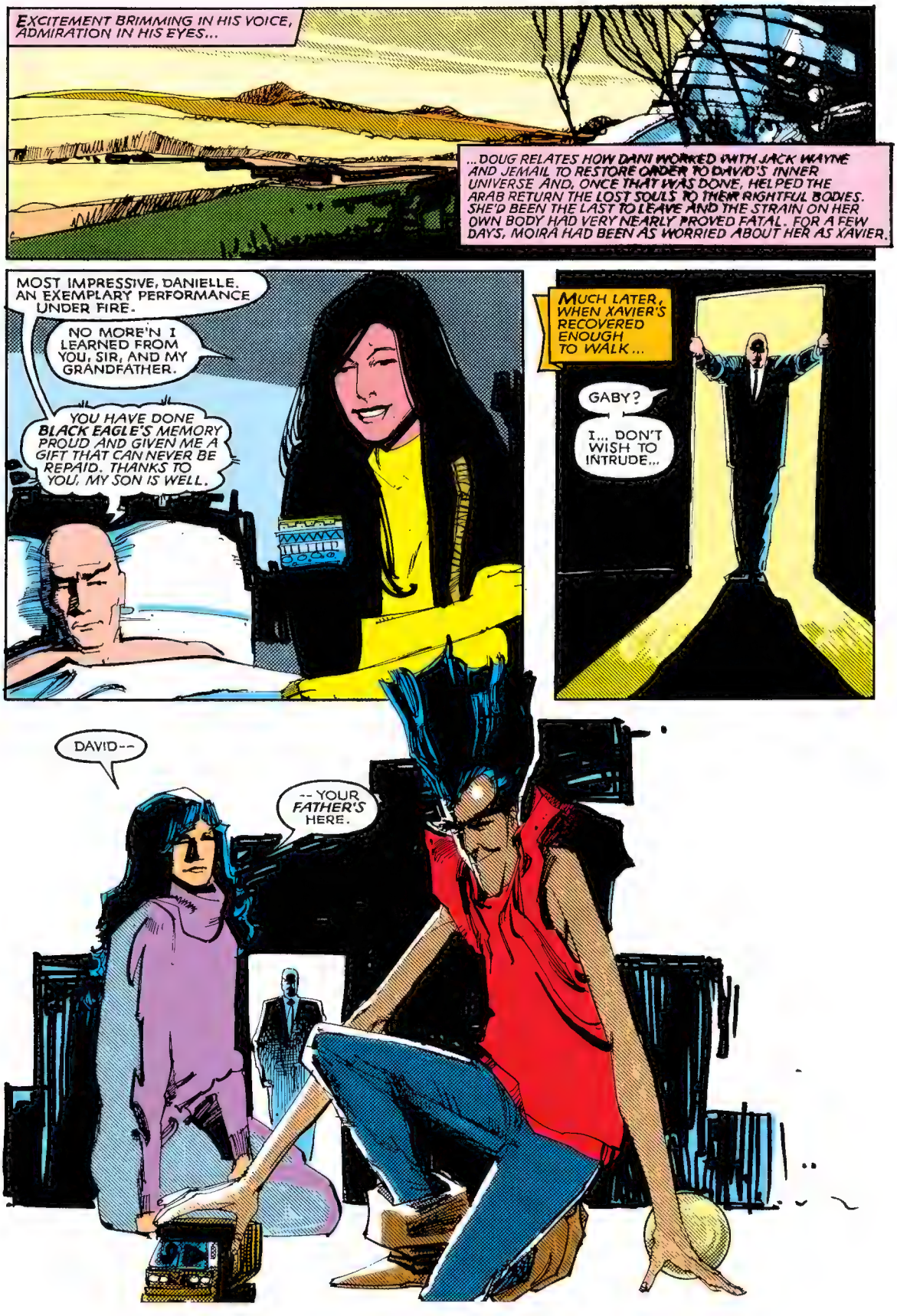
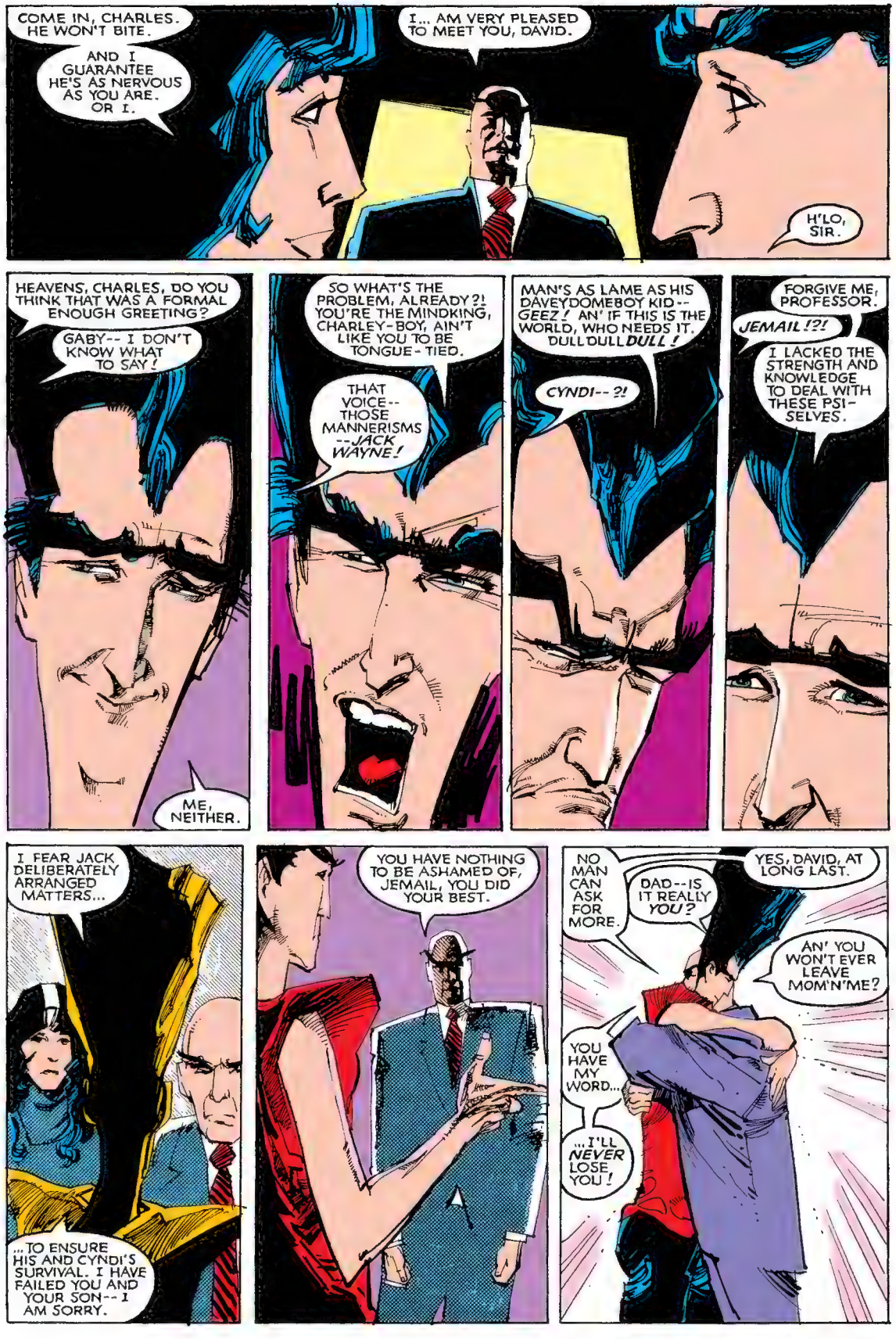
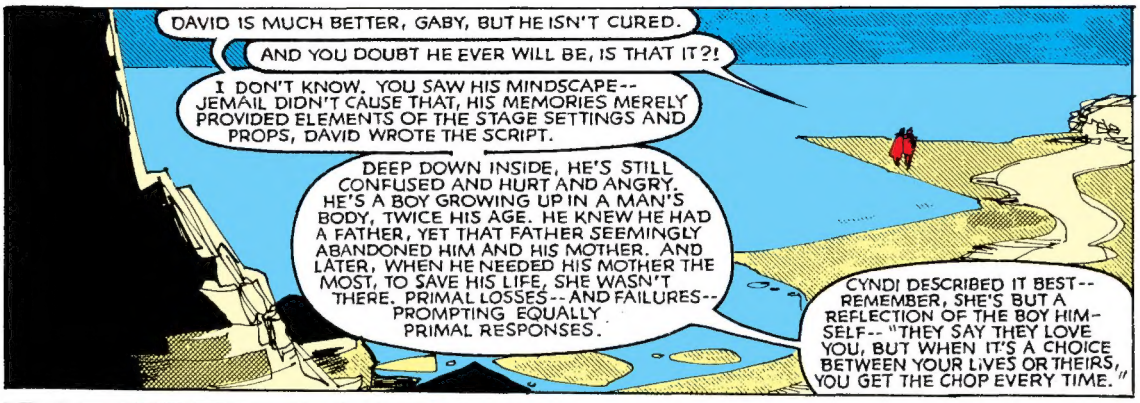
THAT WAS EFFECTIVE-- AND GOOD RIDDANCE!
Dr. MacTAGGERT, RAHNE ISN'T WELL-- I SENSE IT THROUGH OUR RAPPORT-- IS THE PROF ANY BETTER?!
THEY'RE BOTH BADLY HURT. THEY MUST BE RESTORED TO THEIR PHYSICAL BODIES AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
MS. HALLER, SEE TO DOUG, HE'S WAKING UP!
JEMAIL'S MINE.
WE NEED A TELEPATH TO GET US HOME-- AND SORT OUT THIS MESS-- WITH THE PROF KAYO'D, WE'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO TURN TO HIM.
DANIELLE, NO-- STOP!
SHE KNOWS WHAT SHE'S DOING, GIVE HER A CHANCE.
DANI ALLOWS HERSELF THE BRIEFEST OF GRINS AS SHE HEARS THIS, HOPING SHE PROVES WORTHY OF HER FRIEND'S FAITH.
SHE REACHES OUT WITH HER PSI-TALENT-- AWARE THAT THIS IS HER MOMENT OF TRUTH AS THE MUTANTS' TEAM LEADER-- PRAYING TO THE GREAT SPIRIT AND HER CHEYENNE ANCESTORS FOR HELP AS SHE USES HER POWER TO DRAW UPON JEMAIL'S HAPPY MEMORIES TO CALM AND REVIVE HIM.
IT'S A HARD, GRUELING EFFORT, REWARDED AT THE END WITH...
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
STUPID, LITTLE FOOL-- IF YOU HADN'T ATTACKED ME NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED!
HOWEVER, AFTER HER EXPLANATION...
WHY'D IT TAKE YOU SO LONG TO LEARN ENGLISH?
UNLIKE CYNDI AND JACK, DOUG'S CONSCIOUSNESS WAS OPEN TO ME.
FROM DOUGLAS, I ABSORBED THE KNOWLEDGE WHILE HIS TRANSLATING TALENT WAS TEACHING HIM ARABIC-- IT JUST TOOK A LOT LONGER FOR ME TO ASSIMILATE IT.
"YOU WERE TRYING TO HEAL MY SON?!"
YES, AMBASSADOR, UNLIKELY AS THAT MAY SEEM.
AT FIRST, I HATED HIM-- FOR WHAT HE WAS, WHAT HE REPRESENTED, WHAT HE'D... DONE. DEATH I'D BEEN PREPARED FOR, NOT THIS.
WHAT A DISASTER-- YEARS OF WORK AND EFFORT, SEPARATING THE IMAGES AND ELEMENTS OF MY SELF FROM DAVID'S, REPAIRING THE DAMAGE.

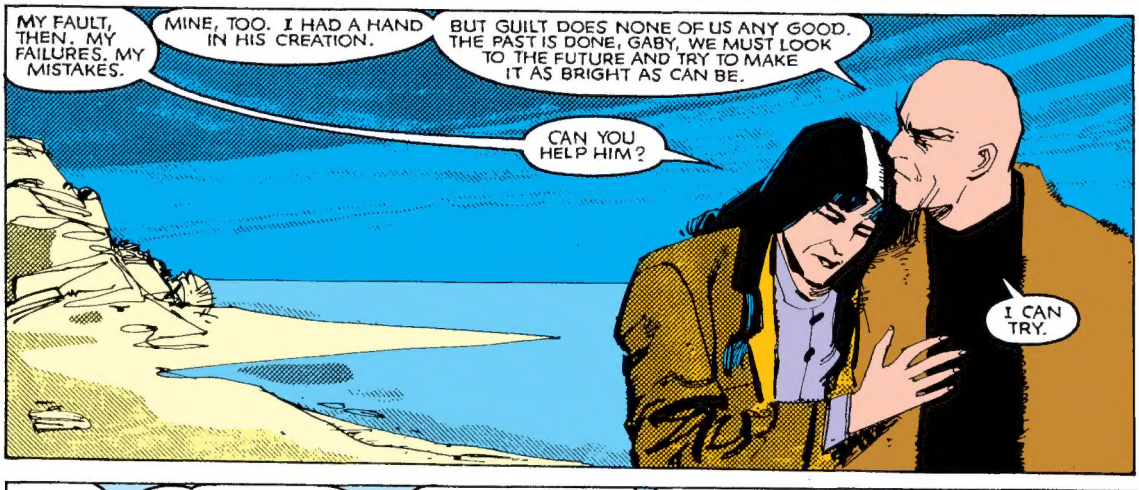
THERE HE IS.
AND NEARBY-- TOM CORSI AND SHARON FRIEDLANDER, THE FIRST TWO OF US ZAPPED INTO DAVID'S MIND.*
I'VE BEEN HELPING THEM, TOO, AS BEST I COULD.
*IN NM #26 --AnnN.
AS I REGAINED MY OWN SENSE OF SELF-IDENTITY, I FOUND I'D ASSUMED DAVID'S TELEPATHIC TALENT.
OF COURSE, HIS WAS THE FIRST MIND I READ.
I LEARNED HOW KIND AND GENTLE AND INNOCENT A SOUL HE WAS.
THEN, I EXPLORED HIS MOTHER'S THOUGHTS, AND THOSE OF OTHERS, AND WITH THAT KNOWLEDGE CAME AN UNDERSTANDING, A GROWING ENLIGHTENMENT OF SPIRIT THAT MY HATRED COULD NOT WITHSTAND.
'SO, I RESOLVED TO PUT THINGS RIGHT. DAVID'S PSYCHE HAD SPLINTERED INTO SCORES OF PSI-SELVES AND I BEGAN COLLECTING AND RE-INTEGRATING THEM INTO THE CORE SELF. SOME RESISTED AND ONE IN PARTICULAR PROVED DANGEROUSLY HOSTILE.
I FOUND MYSELF IN A RACE AGAINST TIME. DAVID'S ABILITIES WERE MANIFESTING THEMSELVES IN THE "REAL" WORLD. I HAD TO COMPLETE MY TASK BEFORE HE GOT TOTALLY OUT OF CONTROL.
ALL THAT WORK--I WAS SO CLOSE, I REALLY THOUGHT I HAD WON-- FOR NOTHING. IT'LL TAKE TOO LONG TO REPEAT THE PROCESS AND IN THE MEANTIME HE COULD CAUSE UNTOLD HARM. I'VE NO CHOICE, I'LL HAVE TO ASSUME PERMANENT CONTROL.
MAYBE NOT.
THE PROF'S UNCONSCIOUS-- NO USE TO US-- BUT WHAT ABOUT A TELEKINETIC TO SHUNT THE CRYSTALS BACK INTO THEIR PROPER PLACES?
COULD YOU WORK IN TANDEM WITH JACK?
THAT MAKES SENSE-- BUT DO YOU TRUST HIM?
NO MORE'N I DO YOU, PAL.

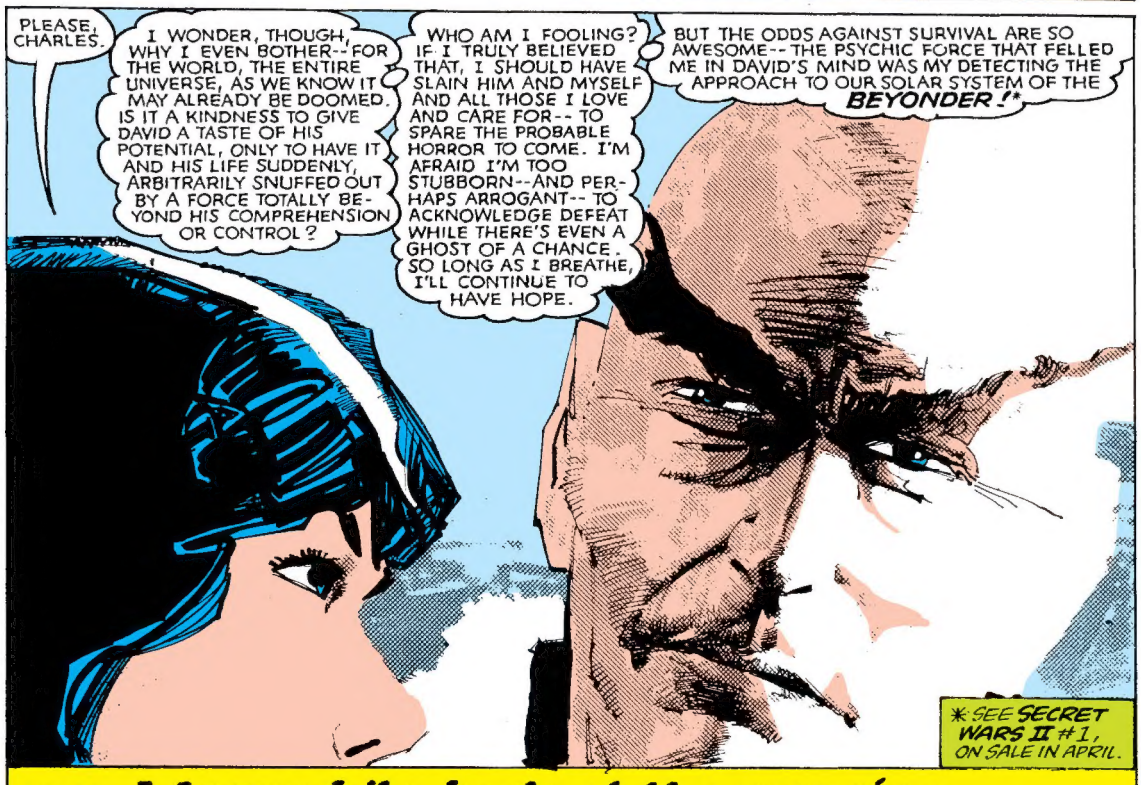
HE IS EVIL!
HE SAYS THE SAME ABOUT YOU.
YOU DON'T TRUST ME, DANIELLE, EVEN AFTER WHAT I'VE SAID?!
ESPECIALLY AFTER THAT. BUT I'M STUCK-- I HAVE TO SAVE THE BOY AND MY FRIENDS. I'M GAMBLING YOUR MUTUAL HATE'LL KEEP YOU BOTH CAREFUL, AND HONEST. NOT AN IDEAL SOLUTION, BUT IT'S THE BEST I'VE GOT.
WHAT IF HE REFUSES?
HE WON'T--
--WILL YOU, JACK?
AND YOU WON'T TRY ANY TRICKS, EITHER...
...OR I'LL GET REALLY NASTY.
WHATEVER YOU SAY, LI'L DARLIN'...
...IT'LL BE MY PLEASURE.
MOIRA...?
I'M BACK, WE'RE... ALL... BACK!
IN REALITY.
HOME.
IN MY LAB ON MUIR ISLE, ANYWAY.
YOU HAD US GOIN', ME OLD DEAR, WE THOUGHT YOU'D MISSED THE TRAIN.
EVERYONE'S FINE, ALL SAFE AN' SOUND, THE WORLD RETURNED TO WHAT PASSES IN OUR LIVES FOR NORMAL.
BETTER PART OF A FORTNIGHT, 'CEPT FOR ONE SEMI- PSYCHOTIC EPISODE WHEN YOU STARTED SCREAMING AN' THRASHING ABOUT. SCARED THE DICKENS OUT OF ME, I COULD'NA CALM YOU, BUT IT SOON PASSED AND DIDN'T REOCCUR.
I REMEMBER THAT, AND, LORD HELP US ALL, THE REASON FOR IT!
HOW LONG WAS I COMATOSE?
TELL ME, HOW DID WE ESCAPE?


EXCITEMENT BRIMMING IN HIS VOICE, ADMIRATION IN HIS EYES...
...DOUG RELATES HOW DANI WORKED WITH JACK WAYNE AND JEMAIL TO RESTORE ORDER TO DAVID'S INNER UNIVERSE AND, ONCE THAT WAS DONE, HELPED THE ARAB RETURN THE LOST SOULS TO THEIR RIGHTFUL BODIES. SHE'D BEEN THE LAST TO LEAVE AND THE STRAIN ON HER OWN BODY HAD VERY NEARLY PROVED FATAL. FOR A FEW DAYS, MOIRA HAD BEEN AS WORRIED ABOUT HER AS XAVIER.
MOST IMPRESSIVE, DANIELLE. AN EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE UNDER FIRE.
NO MORE'N I LEARNED FROM YOU, SIR, AND MY GRANDFATHER.
YOU HAVE DONE BLACK EAGLE'S MEMORY PROUD AND GIVEN ME A GIFT THAT CAN NEVER BE REPAID. THANKS TO YOU, MY SON IS WELL.
MUCH LATER, WHEN XAVIER'S RECOVERED ENOUGH TO WALK...
GABY?
I... DON'T WISH TO INTRUDE...
DAVID--
-- YOUR FATHER'S HERE.


COME IN, CHARLES. HE WON'T BITE.
AND I GUARANTEE HE'S AS NERVOUS AS YOU ARE. OR I.
I... AM VERY PLEASED TO MEET YOU, DAVID.
H'LO, SIR.
HEAVENS, CHARLES, DO YOU THINK THAT WAS A FORMAL ENOUGH GREETING?
GABY-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!
ME, NEITHER.
SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, ALREADY?! YOU'RE THE MINDKING, CHARLEY-BOY, AIN'T LIKE YOU TO BE TONGUE-TIED.
THAT VOICE-- THOSE MANNERISMS --JACK WAYNE!
MAN'S AS LAME AS HIS DAVEYDOMEBOY KID-- GEEZ! AN' IF THIS IS THE WORLD, WHO NEEDS IT. DULL DULL DULL!
CYNDI-- ?!
FORGIVE ME, PROFESSOR.
JEMAIL!?!
I LACKED THE STRENGTH AND KNOWLEDGE TO DEAL WITH THESE PSI-SELVES.
I FEAR JACK DELIBERATELY ARRANGED MATTERS...
...TO ENSURE HIS AND CYNDI'S SURVIVAL. I HAVE FAILED YOU AND YOUR SON-- I AM SORRY.
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF, JEMAIL, YOU DID YOUR BEST.
NO MAN CAN ASK FOR MORE.
DAD--IS IT REALLY YOU?
YES, DAVID, AT LONG LAST.
AN' YOU WON'T EVER LEAVE MOM'N'ME?
YOU HAVE MY WORD...
...I'LL NEVER LOSE YOU!


DAVID IS MUCH BETTER, GABY, BUT HE ISN'T CURED.
AND YOU DOUBT HE EVER WILL BE, IS THAT IT?!
I DON'T KNOW. YOU SAW HIS MINDSCAPE--JEMAIL DIDN'T CAUSE THAT, HIS MEMORIES MERELY PROVIDED ELEMENTS OF THE STAGE SETTINGS AND PROPS, DAVID WROTE THE SCRIPT.
DEEP DOWN INSIDE, HE'S STILL CONFUSED AND HURT AND ANGRY. HE'S A BOY GROWING UP IN A MAN'S BODY, TWICE HIS AGE. HE KNEW HE HAD A FATHER, YET THAT FATHER SEEMINGLY ABANDONED HIM AND HIS MOTHER. AND LATER, WHEN HE NEEDED HIS MOTHER THE MOST, TO SAVE HIS LIFE, SHE WASN'T THERE. PRIMAL LOSSES--AND FAILURES--PROMPTING EQUALLY PRIMAL RESPONSES.
CYNDI DESCRIBED IT BEST--REMEMBER, SHE'S BUT A REFLECTION OF THE BOY HIMSELF--"THEY SAY THEY LOVE YOU, BUT WHEN IT'S A CHOICE BETWEEN YOUR LIVES OR THEIRS, YOU GET THE CHOP EVERY TIME."


MY FAULT, THEN. MY FAILURES. MY MISTAKES.
MINE, TOO. I HAD A HAND IN HIS CREATION.
BUT GUILT DOES NONE OF US ANY GOOD. THE PAST IS DONE, GABY, WE MUST LOOK TO THE FUTURE AND TRY TO MAKE IT AS BRIGHT AS CAN BE.
CAN YOU HELP HIM?
I CAN TRY.


PLEASE, CHARLES.
I WONDER, THOUGH, WHY I EVEN BOTHER--FOR THE WORLD, THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE, AS WE KNOW IT MAY ALREADY BE DOOMED. IS IT A KINDNESS TO GIVE DAVID A TASTE OF HIS POTENTIAL, ONLY TO HAVE IT AND HIS LIFE SUDDENLY, ARBITRARILY SNUFFED OUT BY A FORCE TOTALLY BEYOND HIS COMPREHENSION OR CONTROL?
WHO AM I FOOLING? IF I TRULY BELIEVED THAT, I SHOULD HAVE SLAIN HIM AND MYSELF AND ALL THOSE I LOVE AND CARE FOR--TO SPARE THE PROBABLE HORROR TO COME. I'M AFRAID I'M TOO STUBBORN--AND PERHAPS ARROGANT--TO ACKNOWLEDGE DEFEAT WHILE THERE'S EVEN A GHOST OF A CHANCE. SO LONG AS I BREATHE, I'LL CONTINUE TO HAVE HOPE.
BUT THE ODDS AGAINST SURVIVAL ARE SO AWESOME--THE PSYCHIC FORCE THAT FELLED ME IN DAVID'S MIND WAS MY DETECTING THE APPROACH TO OUR SOLAR SYSTEM OF THE BEYONDER!*
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